

CHOCF 10.1 5/29/2011

# Friends of Force Lake

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Deborah Yamamoto  
Superfund Program  
USEPA REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
**Mail Code:** ECL-115  
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JUN 3 2011

Environmental  
Cleanup Office

May 29, 2011

Dear Ms. Yamamoto,

I am writing to you on behalf of Friends of Force Lake to urge you to move to the next step of the clean-up process for the Harbor Oil Superfund site.

Force Lake is a unique wildlife habitat that affords all people, regardless of physical ability, the opportunity view more than 100 species of birds, animals, amphibians and reptiles from their cars. (b) (6)

Force Lake is home to several Oregon or Willamette Valley sensitive species, including Western painted turtles and tri-colored blackbirds. It is the only nesting area within the Portland Urban Growth Boundary for ruddy ducks.

Force Lake has been neglected for far too long. In addition to the terrible pollution from Harbor Oil, runoff from the parking bays flows directly into the lake, the lovely rock retaining walls are crumbling, and beavers are taking out the few remaining large trees around the lake.

While it has been a long time since the lake has been viable for recreational activities like sunbathing, swimming, kayaking, or even racing model boats (such as took place in the past), human activities at the lake are likely to continue to increase. The Kenton Neighborhood Plan calls for creating a new entrance to Heron Lakes Golf Course by Force Lake, including wetland observation areas and a nature path to the heron rookery (Action Chart 3: Parks

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and Recreation, #3), and creating an exercise/hiking trail around Heron Lakes Golf Course (Action Chart 3: Parks and Recreation, #2). This is also a goal included in the Portland Parks & Recreation 2020 Vision for North Portland.

Human activities in the area have already increased as the City of Portland Environmental Services Watershed Revegetation Program recently removed invasive Himalayan blackberries around the south end of the lake. Additionally, Friends of Force Lake recently partnered with Portland Parks & Recreation, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and SOLV for an Earth Day clean up at the lake. In addition to removing more than 1,000 lbs. of garbage from the lake and surrounding area, volunteers caged 21 trees to protect them from beavers.

Friends of Force Lake and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council recently submitted a successful grant application for additional restoration activities at the lake, including replanting native species and protecting more trees from beavers. Future activities include regrading and adding gravel to the parking lot to prevent runoff into the lake, and adding educational signage regarding the flora and fauna at the lake. These activities are endorsed by Portland Parks & Recreation, the Portland Audubon Society, Kenton Neighborhood Association, SOLV and Peninsula 1 Drainage District.

Friends of Force Lake currently include 66 people (and growing) who care about this lake and want to see it restored to a healthy wildlife habitat.

Again, we strongly urge a decision by EPA to take the actions necessary to clean up this lake.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



Friends of Force Lake

Cc: Chris Cora  
Mark Stephens